

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

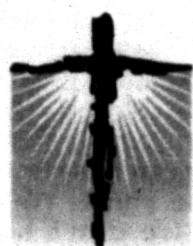
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MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## Death threat prompts call acceptance

NORMAN, Okla. — Why did communist guerillas in El Salvador put Daniel Caceres so high on their murder "hit list" in 1980? Was it because his brother was a top officer in El Salvador's army battling the guerillas? Was it because Daniel had been a successful businessman, or because he was an evangelical Christian leader in the civil war-torn nation?

Now, 27 years later, Caceres (pronounced "Ka-se'-res") says he doesn't care or want to know why he was targeted. "Back then, the communists were killing pastors and priests all the time," he recalled. "A lot of people died in El Salvador, close to 100,000 people, especially the clergy, lawyers, and businessmen."

Caceres, now 58, was born in El Salvador as was his wife Marta and their two sons. Educated as an accountant who also achieved national soccer star status, he fled the country when war erupted.

Raised by a mother who was a "great lady of faith," Caceres had already rejected two calls from God to become a full-time pastor by the time the civil war broke out. "God called me three times," said Daniel. "The first time, I didn't hear his voice very clearly. The second time, I heard his voice but I didn't answer."

The third time, with civil war and certain death hanging over him, Daniel answered God's call. "I said, 'Lord, it's OK. Now I surrender my life full-time to you,' and I started preaching the Gospel."

Caceres left his beloved but bloody El Salvador for the last time in 1980. He lost his heavy equipment business, his house, his cars, and the church he loved so much. "I came to America only with my two kids, my wife, and my Jesus Christ," he said with a face that breaks into a warm smile when he mentions the name of "his" Jesus.

Working in His typical mysterious way, God had used three communist guerillas — all stalking Daniel to kill him with their machine guns — to make him realize he needed to totally surrender his life to God. "I now recommend to people who receive a call from God to be obedi-



SAFE NOW — Daniel Caceres (standing, facing crowd), Hispanic church planting strategist, moderates the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma's Hispanic Church Planting Conference. Caceres was once marked for death by communist rebels in his native El Salvador, before answering the call to ministry. (NAMB photo by William B. Pope)

ent the first time. Don't wait for those guerillas to come and get you," he joked, now able to laugh about it 27 years later.

Daniel and Marta Caceres are two of more than 5,000 missionaries in the United States, Canada and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) for North American Missions. They are one of eight North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionary couples highlighted as part of the annual Week of Prayer on March 2-9.

This year's theme is, "Live with Urgency: Seize Your Divine Moment." The 2008 AAEO goal is \$61 million, 100% of which is used for missionaries like Daniel Caceres.

For the last five years, Caceres has served as state Hispanic church planting strategist in Oklahoma City, Ok., jointly supported by NAMB and the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma (BGCO). He has worked as a NAMB missionary since 1988.

When he came to Oklahoma in 1981, the state had a small Hispanic population and only a half-dozen Hispanic congregations. The 1990 census reported 179,000 Hispanics in the state but today, 300,000 Hispanics call the Sooner State home and there are more than 100 Hispanic churches.

According to Caceres, 80% of Oklahoma's 300,000 Hispanics are from Mexico. The remainder comes from Spain, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, and other Central and South American nations.

"The problem for us is that from Mexico, only the poor people are coming — from the mountains and the rural areas. The people who live in Mexico City, Monterey, and the other big cities are staying, but the poor people from the rural areas of Mexico are coming here to survive," he said.

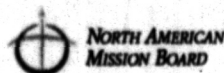
What is a typical week like for a church planting strategist in Oklahoma? "First, we are always looking at the cities with the greatest Hispanic populations in the state," Caceres said, "and then we are looking for sponsoring churches, partnering churches and primary churches to provide us with their facilities to start new churches in their towns."

One of Caceres' showcase Hispanic churches is Oklahoma City's Rios de Agua, which is Spanish for "River of Living Water." Supported with funds from NAMB and the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, the church was started in 1990 and has about 300 worshippers each Sunday.

Caceres asks Southern Baptists to pray that God will provide the additional church planters and workers he needs because in 2008, his goal is to start 30 new Hispanic churches.

"Through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, we receive a lot of resources and support," he said. "We now have more than 100 Hispanic churches, 10 Korean churches, a few Chinese churches, and some Russian and Japanese churches. We're doing our job in Oklahoma."

ANNIE  
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EASTER OFFERING  
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS



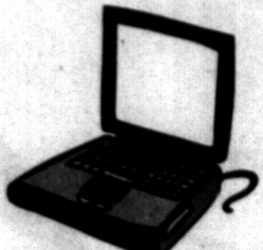
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR  
NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS  
MARCH 2-9, 2008

LIVE WITH URGENCY

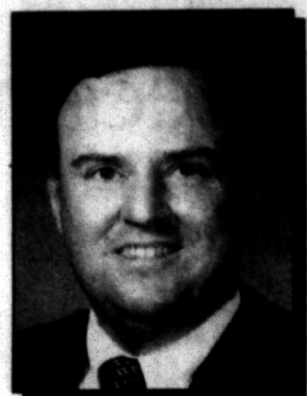
NATIONAL GOAL: \$61,000,000

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# In our own back yard

Say the word "missions" to Southern Baptists, and for most of us a vision springs to mind of some far-away place on the other side of the globe with strange-speaking people in stranger-still garb. We like to think of missions as a thrilling, Indiana Jones jungle adventure filled with breath-taking action and unforgettable experiences.

To be sure, there are Southern Baptist missionaries on the other side of the globe right now who are involved in situations almost as exotic as those fast-paced movies — and there are missionaries on the other side of the globe whose ministries are potentially much more dangerous than any movie could portray.

They certainly deserve our prayers and our sacrificial financial support, but they aren't the only ones. There are our North American missionaries — we called them "home missionaries" in the days of the old Home Mission Board — and their Kingdom ministries are just as important and just as much in need of our prayers and support.

The two main ways Southern Baptists support North American missions are through our Cooperative Program gifts, a percentage of which goes to help fund the ministries of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) headquartered in metro Atlanta, and through the annual Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) for North American Missions.

The importance of "home" missions cannot be overemphasized. In the U.S.,

Canada, and their territories — focal areas of NAMB ministries — there are hundreds of millions of unbelievers. We Americans like to describe ourselves as a Christian nation, but it would appear that we've got plenty of work left to do in our own back yard.

The urgency of that work is underscored by the numbers of zealous "missionaries" of other religions that are pouring into this country, in an effort to convert us to their way of life and religion. Unfortunately, they are making great inroads as their houses of worship spring up in neighborhoods all across the U.S. — including in Mississippi.

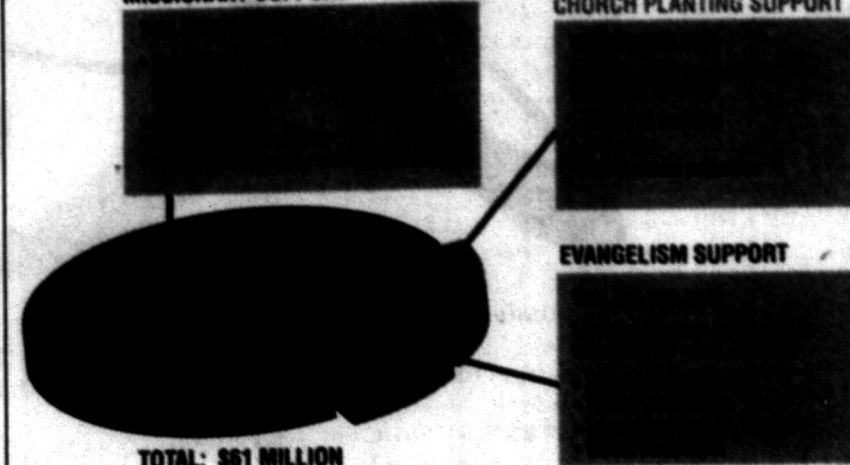
AAEO provides major funding for NAMB's two major thrusts in the U.S. and Canada: evangelism and church planting. NAMB missionaries minister to people's needs in more than 100 language groups in urban and rural settings, opening their arms to such diverse populations as seniors, the illiterate, non-English speakers, substance abusers, prison inmates and their families, the disabled, migrants, and even vacationers, to name only a few.

There are currently over 5,300 missionaries supported by NAMB and its partners serving in the U.S., Canada, and

## 2008 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

MISSIONARY SUPPORT

CHURCH PLANTING SUPPORT



their territories, backed by hundreds of thousands of volunteers each year. More than 2,600 NAMB-endorsed chaplains serve in the U.S. military, correctional facilities, hospitals, and corporate settings. All these workers see many thousands of professions of faith each year.

In 2007, Southern Baptists gave over \$59,000,000 to the offering. The goal this year is \$61,000,000.

Do we take seriously the words of our Lord and Savior when he asked us to go forth and witness to a lost world (Matthew 28:18-20)? We can begin doing that by praying for, getting personally involved in, and financially supporting Southern Baptists' North American mission effort.

Time may well be short. We should start right away. If we don't have our own house in order, how can we convince a lost world to get their houses in order? Think about it.

First of a two-part series

Double-duty ministers seem to be everywhere! We find them from Silver Lake, Alaska to the Florida Keys. What do bivocational pastors do for a living? Their support vocations range from garbage collecting to serving as university presidents.

Today's bivocational ministers preach, counsel, sing, teach, visit, and witness. They also tend store, drive a school bus, farm catfish, dispense medicine, teach school, rush to fires, and argue legal cases. The list of possible church-related activities and vocations is as varied as the ministers themselves.

As the frontier in America spread ever westward, congregations were gathered and churches were planted by "working preachers." As Baptists boldly thrust with the Good News into every unchurched city, village, and town, we again turn to tentmaker ministers to plant churches and disciple believers.

### AN EXAMPLE OF BIVOCATIONAL MINISTRY

Charles Stewart, of Ashland, Ky., is a bivocational pastor who was elected President of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Listen to his first words after receiving the gavel of his new office: "I accept this on behalf of all 800 bivocational pastors in

## GUEST OPINION:



### Consider Bivocational Ministry

By Dale Holloway  
MBCB Bivocational Specialist

Kentucky. They work hard and I really appreciate them."

Stewart came to Ashland as mission pastor to Coal Mine No. 9 Baptist Chapel in 1961. For 30 years his support vocation was Ashland Oil Company. His church, Rose Hill Church, has 1750 members with another 250 members in its four missions. On a recent Sunday at the end of the second worship service, 12 persons came forward to accept Christ as Savior. Eight of these were adults.

What are Charles Stewart's keys to church growth? Build a strong Sunday School, reach out and get the people, win them to Christ, train them so they will grow and give, and teach them our great missionary vision.

WORKING PREACHERS,  
YESTERDAY & TODAY

It appears that double-duty ministry was the norm in both Old and New Testaments. Even

our Lord, though He was Creator of the universe, humbled Himself to become a carpenter.

With the martyrdom of Stephen, persecution forced believers to be scattered abroad. Those who "went everywhere preaching the Word," were lay witnesses. The apostles stayed in Jerusalem.

The greatest prototype of a self-supporting witness was the tentmaker Paul. When he and Barnabas were sent out from the church in Antioch as missionaries, they paid their own way — and it was while Paul was making tents with Aquila and Priscilla that he led them to Christ (J. Christy Wilson Jr., *Today's Tentmakers*, Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers).

In 1790 Baptists became the largest denomination in America, only to be surpassed by the Methodists in 1820. Baptist growth was achieved by multiplying small associations on the expanding frontier. These associ-

ations sent itinerant preachers to "deserted" places — places where people had settled but churches had not been established. These itinerants preached the Gospel and gathered believers into churches.

With few exceptions, these preachers made their living in vocations other than preaching. They were bivocational, a term currently used among Southern Baptist Anglo-American churches. They were Messengers of the Word, the title often used among ethnic-American congregations, because bivocational does not always translate or communicate in another language. They were evangelists, church planters, and pastors.

Today, Baptists are once again the largest Protestant denomination in the United States, and the working preacher is still with us, almost 17,000 strong. Thirty-five percent of all Southern Baptist Convention churches have pastors whose livelihoods come from second vocations. This figure does not include at least 2,500 pastors of mission congregations who have secular employment (Charles L. Chaney, *Missions USA* February 1993).

Holloway may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3204 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 204. E-mail: bivoldr@aol.com.



# Green State providing fertile mission field

WASHINGTON, VT. — When Dewey and Kathie Aiken survey the landscape of Vermont, they see much more than the beautiful red and yellow leaves of autumn, the traditional maple syrup-making in March, and 150-year-old churches with white steeples piercing the blue skies of summer.

Instead, the couple is haunted — literally unable to sleep some nights — when they ponder the lostness of the majority of Vermonters and the urgency to reach the tiny New England state's population of 623,000 with the Gospel. It's estimated that only two percent are committed believers in Christ.

"Vermont is a beautiful state and it's full of beautiful people," says Kathie, "but we know that beneath the facade there is a lostness. Something is missing in people's lives. I see the sadness in so many of their faces."

The Aikens, a husband-wife team of Mission Service Corps (MSC) missionaries commissioned by the North American Mission Board (NAMB), say their passion for Vermont stems from the urgency of the state's bleak spiritual condition.

"There's an urgency to go and get the Gospel out here. When I think about how so many people in this state do not know Jesus as Lord and Savior, it breaks my heart," Dewey said.

The Aikens are two of more than 5,000 missionaries in the United States, Canada, and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) for North American Missions. They are one of eight North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionary couples highlighted as part of the annual Week of Prayer, March 2-9.

This year's theme is, "Live with Urgency: Seize Your Divine Moment." The 2008 AAEO goal is \$61 million, 100% of which is used for missionaries' needs and ministries.

Hailing from Brevard, N.C., Dewey, 56, and Kathie, 54, were celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary 10 years ago when they vacationed in Vermont. They fell in love with the Green Mountain State.

Already active in missions and disaster relief back in North Carolina, the Aikens returned home and after several years, retired from their successful first careers — Kathie as a registered nurse and Dewey as a purchasing manager for Duke Energy.

"When we came up here on our anniversary, we saw the need here in New England," Kathie said. "We had careers

that we were finishing up, and we knew it was time for a change. Our children were married, our family was changing, it was a time in our lives when we could serve Christ in another area in a different way, and we were ready."

Their passion for Vermont grew even stronger. "We wanted to come here. We desired Vermont. We were at home in North Carolina, where we were raised and where we had good jobs and family," Kathie said.

"We just felt like God was calling us to Vermont, to share the Gospel here," Dewey said.

"I looked at Romans 10:14 which asks: 'how will they know unless somebody comes and tells them?' That's why we're here. We're here to tell the people of Vermont about Jesus."

Since the Aikens did not leave their North Carolina drawl behind, they joke about how they use it to witness to Vermonters.

"Folks up here grin when we talk but they're polite about it," said Kathie. "Our accent is actually a witnessing tool. Say we're in a restaurant and we strike up a conversation. When they say 'you're not from around here,' we make them guess where we're from. That opens up doors and we can tell them why we're here."

Coming from a strong Southern Baptist state like North Carolina, the Aikens initially faced some culture shock upon their arrival in Vermont, a state known for its liberal political and secular bent. Vermont also suffers from a pervasive influence of New Age thinking and even Wiccan (witchcraft) practices.

"God prepared our hearts and gave us a vision of what it was going to be like, even before we got here," said Kathie. "We came up here with the mindset that nothing is going to shock us."

A hindrance to their ministry, according to the Aikens, is the fact that many in Vermont with its strong Catholic influence have "just enough religion in



VERMONT MISSIONS — Kathie and Dewey Aiken, Mission Service Corps missionaries for the North American Mission Board in Washington, Vt., look over a Vermont map with Terry Dorsett (right), associational missionary for the Green Mountain Association. The native North Carolinian couple has served in Vermont for five years. (NAMB photo by David Russell Photography)

their pasts to think, because they were baptized as infants, that they're going to heaven, or they think they are 'genetic Christians' because their families attended church or were members of a certain faith.

"It hurts your heart, and actually sometimes makes me somewhat angry at the way people up here have been deceived into thinking that everything is OK," said Kathie.

Kathie gets frustrated at times because she sees children and young people who don't understand the Bible and, in fact, say the Bible has never been read to them, even in a church. "They don't open the Bible in church, only the priest does."

So whether ministering to young people or conducting a Bible study for a group of 80-year-olds, Kathie tries to keep it basic and simple. Her strategy must work. She recently led an 82-year-old woman to Christ.

"The money that comes to Vermont under the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering supports our director of missions, our church planters, and our new church plants," said Dewey. "It's all about a compassion to win people to Jesus Christ and spreading the Gospel here in Vermont."

"We just signed up for two more years," said Kathie. "After that, I'm not sure. We'll return to North Carolina one day, probably to the Brevard area near Asheville. We're mountain people, but right now in our lives I can't imagine doing anything else," she said. "It's so absolutely fulfilling to know you're right smack in the middle of what He wants you to be doing."



## MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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## Correction

In the page one article in the issue of February 21, a reporter's error resulted in the misidentification of the counties and associations involved in the Coast Rebuild program. Hancock County is part of Gulf Coast Association. Gulf Coast and Jackson are the associations involved in Coast Rebuild. The Baptist Record regrets the error.

## LIVE WITH URGENCY

SEIZE YOUR DIVINE MOMENT

NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

## Looking back

10 years ago

New Orleans Seminary trustees will hear and vote on the recommendation from the seminary's Vision New Orleans committees as to whether or not the seminary should move or remain on the current property.

20 years ago

Jimmy Draper and Bailey Smith, former presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention, and current president Adrian Rogers, release a statement of beliefs to clarify "what makes our hearts beat, who we are and what we really, really want for the SBC."

50 years ago

The Committee to Study Total Southern Baptist Convention Programs recommends the formation of two new agencies -- a Stewardship Commission and a Church Loan Board.





### YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

### AGE LIMITATIONS

Aging is what we all do from the day we are born. It is one of the chief means of measuring life, and we put a great deal of emphasis on it. Every 12 months from the time we get here, we celebrate birthdays. We mark when a person should be able to begin school and when they should be finishing school by years. Isn't it strange how little emphasis we put on what we actually acquire during those years? We just note that we went to school 12 years. We measure job participation by years and may not even acknowledge any job performance. Time and its passage is a big deal with most of us. Sometimes we do a great disservice to others and ourselves by using chronology to measure what is happening. Sometimes we determine a person's ability or effectiveness by time and fail to recognize qualities that are far more important and significant.

John McCain, who is running for president of the United States of America, has been measured in a number of different ways but time is one for which he has been criticized. Potentially, he could be the oldest man ever sworn in as president of the United States at



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

72 years of age. In the minds of some, that should overshadow other important features in his life and maybe disqualify him for the presidency. Those kinds of accusations are probably what precipitated him taking his mother with him to most of his campaign stops. Mrs. McCain is chipper, alert, and alive 96-year-old.

While some people think that John McCain is feisty and spunky, you ought to deal with his Mama. Not long ago she went on a trip to Europe. When she arrived, she wanted to rent a car to see the countryside and the car rental company would not allow her to have a vehicle. What did Mrs. McCain do? She bought a car and drove all over the countryside.

There are times when aging takes things away. For folks who get to be in their 40s, 50s, and 60s,

it becomes apparent that physically they may not be as strong as they once were.

They may not be able to run as fast as they could and their bodies may not be in shape like before. All of this leads one to bemoan the fact that age takes some things away. On the positive side, some of the things that aging removes make life better. It is not always true, but oftentimes aging takes away an impetuous spirit, a judgmental attitude, or a condemnatory evaluation. Sometimes the longer you live, the more perspective you have on life that seems to remove some of the things that did not need to be there in the first place.

Occasionally you will hear someone refer to a person and say, "Well, they have mellowed with age." That is what they are talking about, for you realize that not everything has to be your way all of the time. Even when the other fellow is wrong, you understand why he may process things the way he does and you begin to see life through eyes of grace and mercy.

While at times age takes things away, it also adds some things. I suppose it could be called "value added" aspects of

life. I have known so many people who have come close to death's door and in the maturing years recognize how precious every day is, how meaningful love is, and how cherished every relationship ought to be. Often aging will bring an understanding of life that enriches, broadens, and deepens everything. That is a sweet and blessed thing. While sometimes aging takes away some things and at other times adds some things, it is never easy to know what will be taken and what will be added. That often comes because of the decisions and the will of the person. We have all known some aging person who is cranky as an adult and as time passes on gets meaner and their spirit becomes more bitter with every passing birthday. You can be a middle-aged knothead and become a sour-spirited old dude, or you can grow in your walk with the Lord and allow Him to continue to shape your spirit into the loveliness of the Lord Himself.

It is probably far better that we not measure by chronology, but celebrate our lives in relationship to the transformation and goodness of God in our lives. For me, I may have to be as old as Methuselah for good things to happen to make a difference in my spirit, but I pray that it will so that some day and in some way I might be a blessing to others and honor His name in my life and in my aging process.

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### MS POSITIONS

**ASSOC. MISSIONS DIRECTOR.** Resumes are being received for associational missions director, Lincoln Baptist Association. Please send resumes to Lincoln Baptist Association, P.O. Box 363, Brookhaven, MS 39601. Deadline to receive resumes is March 15, 2008.

**SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH**, Collins, Miss., is seeking a full-time minister of music. Please send resumes to personnel committee, P.O. Box 1628, Collins, MS 39428 or email to [pastor@saalebaptistcollins.org](mailto:pastor@saalebaptistcollins.org).

**FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC/YOUTH.** Parkview Baptist Church, Greenville, MS is seeking a full-time minister of music and/or youth. Please send resume to Personnel Committee, 712 McAllister Street, Greenville, MS 38701 or email to [parkviewp@bellsouth.net](mailto:parkviewp@bellsouth.net).

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, BRANDON** Miss., is currently accepting resumes from qualified applicants for the staff position of minister of music and worship. Resumes may be submitted in

writing to Dr. Kevin Cooper, associate pastor of worship and students, c/o FBC Brandon, 309 S. College St, Brandon, MS 39042. Or email to [KLCooper@FBCBrandon.com](mailto:KLCooper@FBCBrandon.com) and cc: [DLott@FBCBrandon.com](mailto:DLott@FBCBrandon.com).

**EAST MOSS POINT BAPTIST CHURCH**, Jackson County, Miss., is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resume to East Moss Point Baptist Church, pastor search committee, 7842 Misty Meadow Dr., Moss Point, MS 39563.

**CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MERIDIAN, MISS.**, is looking for a summer youth worker and/or part-time youth minister to provide leadership in planning, coordinating and unifying all sixth through twelfth grade ministries. For details and application, call Calvary Baptist Church, at (601) 482-6403 or email [cbcinfo@bellsouth.net](mailto:cbcinfo@bellsouth.net).

**SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH, MARSHALL COUNTY, MISS.**, seeking part-time youth director with potential for growth. Please send resume to youth director search committee, P.O. Box 734, Potts Camp, MS 38659.

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## STAFF CHANGES

1. **Truitt Memorial Church, Pearl**, has called Kevin Griffin as pastor. He comes with his wife Cindy and children Daniel, Hannah, and Rachel. He has pastored churches in Meridian, Belzoni, and Meadville.
2. **Big Ridge Church, D'Iberville**, has called Raymond Grabert as pastor. He comes with wife Jennifer and sons, Alexander and Zachary.
3. **Slayden Church, Marshall Association**, has called Brian Ross as youth minister. He graduated from Southwestern Seminary in December. He is shown with his wife Leila and son Brett.



3. Brian Ross & family

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## OBITUARIES

**Wilburn Matthews**, 80, died Jan. 31, with services held at First Church, Starkville and burial in the Odd Fellows Cemetery, Starkville. A WWII and Korean War veteran, Matthews held degrees from Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He pastored churches in Alabama and Mississippi for over 50 years prior to his retirement, and while pastor of Calvary Church, Greenwood, lead the state in baptisms in 1960. He is survived by his wife, Donnis Brent Matthews; children, Mark Matthews, Suzy Heflin, and Paul Matthews; 12 grandchildren; one brother, Walter Matthews; and two sisters Mary Rider and Marie Matthews.

**Howard S. Davis**, born May 1, 1918, Wiggins, died Jan. 26. He pastored Zion Hill Church, McNeil; Gainesville Church, Gainesville; Bellefontaine Church, Ocean Springs; Juniper Grove Church, Poplarville; Corinth Church, Nicholson; Louin Church, Louin; Pine Forest Church, Stewart; and Union Church, Stewart, from which he retired in 2001. He attended Clarke College and William Carey University, and was a WWII veteran with a rank of staff sergeant. Survivors include wife Thelma (Tilly); daughter Wendy and husband Frank Brewer; daughter Bobbie Faye and husband Gary Deurell; son Rod Thomas and wife Jenny; son Robert F. Thomas Davis and wife Pam; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**William Carley Hill, Sr.**, 79, died Jan. 17 in Ridgeland, with services held at the Natchez Trace Memorial Park cemetery. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Oleta, four children and two grandchildren. Hill graduated from Gulfport High School as a track star and had a scholarship to Louisiana State University. He also had degrees from William Carey University and New Orleans Seminary. He served in the National Guard and Army in Korea and was awarded the Bronze Star among other citations. He ministered to the deaf in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas and was the bus director at Parkway Church in Jackson for 17 years. He pastored First Church, Mississippi City and Crestwood Church, Jackson. He was also a consultant in the evangelism department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, for six years.

## COLLEGE NEWS

**Blue Mountain College** will present *Arsenic and Old Lace* on Feb. 26 through March 1 in the Garrett Hall auditorium. The play has 7:30 p.m. performances on Tuesday and Thursday through Saturday. Matinees are scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday and Thursday, and at 1 p.m. on Friday. Ticket prices are \$5 for students, \$7 for adults.

## Bibliocipher

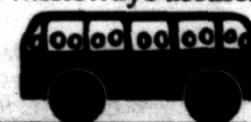
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CLH PLX WL MLTZX EJZ  
DLHMX, EJUE JZ PUTZ JNW  
LAMO YZPLEEZA WLA, EJUE  
DJLWLZTZX YZMNZTZEJ NA  
JNI WJLSMX ALE RZHNWJ,  
YSE JUTZ ZTZH MUWENAP  
MNCZ. BLJA EJHZZ:  
WNKEZZA

Clue: C=F

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark One Eleven

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## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. GAs, First Church, Bruce



2. First Church, Lucedale, deacon ordination



3. First Church, Fannin, deacon ordination



4. Troy Church food scavenger hunt

1. The GAs of First Church, Bruce, are participating in a project for the Ricks Institute in Liberia. The institute is in partnership with wMu, and is a K-12 school which purchases livestock for children. The girls raised \$175, enough to buy a goat and a pig. Shown, front row, are Chloe Grubbs, Elizabeth Clanton, and Sara Beth Owens; center, Bailey Massey and Ashley Logan; back, Annette Ruth, Maria Inman, Kayla Webb, and Taylor Lundgren.

2. First Church, Lucedale, recently ordained Murray Cowart as deacon. Shown are Jason Scott, Cowart, and Brad McKissack.

3. First Church, Fannin, recently ordained Matthew Boyd and Jim McCaskill as deacons. Shown are Boyd, pastor Ron Bird, and McCaskill.

4. The children of Troy Church, Pontotoc Association, participated in Children in Ministry Day by going on a food scavenger hunt for canned foods and donated them to the community food pantry. Shown are the participants.

5. First Church, Bay St. Louis, held a groundbreaking ceremony for their new worship center Feb. 3. Shown are Sam Wilbourn, Gail Carr, Pat Favre, Troy Rutledge, Jack Hode, Wayne Fillingame, Terry Goodbread, and Brian Rushing.

6. The Mission Friends, RAs, and GAs of Troy Church, Pontotoc Association, participated in Focus on wMu by representing children from around the world and singing in the worship service. Shown are the participants.

7. First Church, Raymond, will host the 2008 Mayberry Dinner Theater's new show, The Re-Revivin' of Mayberry, Feb. 29 and Mar. 1, 6:30 p.m. Tickets, \$20, can be purchased by calling the church office at (601) 857-5501.

8. Providence Church, Carrollton, will host GriefShare recovery seminar beginning Mar. 25, 6:45 p.m. For more information, call Sandra Duvall at (662) 237-6041 or 455-8820.

9. Fernwood Church, Gulfport, will host their annual Easter egg hunt Mar. 15, 11 a.m.; a Lord's Supper service Mar. 20, 7 p.m.; a Good Friday service, Mar. 21, 7 p.m.; and Easter services including the musical In Christ Alone Mar. 23, 10:45 a.m.



5. First Church, Bay St. Louis, groundbreaking



6. Troy Church Missions Groups



10. Children on Mission, Hebron Church



12. Central Church, McNeill, deacon ordination



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



13. BSU at Vaiden Church, Vaiden



14. Bala Chitto Church playground dedication



18. Morris and Didon, Tangipahoa Church



19. GAs, First Church, Vancleave



20. Shivers Church groundbreaking

10. The Children on Mission group of Hebron Church, Smithdale, recently hand-made over 80 Valentine's Day cards and handed them out to residents of the local nursing home. Shown are the participants.

11. Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, will host the annual community Bible study Feb. 29 - Mar. 1, led by Rita Sweatt. Tickets are \$20. Call (662) 257-9043 for information.

12. Central Church, McNeill, ordained William "Bill" Gordon as deacon. Shown are Gordon, left, and pastor Billy Galloway.

13. Vaiden Church, Vaiden, hosted the BSU from Holmes Community College, Goodman campus, Feb. 18. Mary Alldread, front, second from right, is a member at Vaiden.

14. Bala Chitto Church, Pike Association, held its playground dedication Feb. 10. The playground was dedicated in memory of Bobby Sterling.

15. The wMu of Golden Triangle Association will sponsor A Visit with Wanda Lee, national wMu executive-director, Apr. 1. Two sessions - one from 10 a.m. - noon, followed by lunch, and the second from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Attendees of the first session should respond to Pat Belcher at pbelcher@cableone.net, (662) 328-7302, goldentriangleba@bellsouth.net, or (662) 328-6802 so that enough food can be prepared. Free.

16. Silver Creek Church, McComb is hosting a Winter Bible Study, Mar. 2 - 5; sessions, Sun., 9:45 a.m., worship 10:45 a.m., and 5 & 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; James Messer, leader.

17. The youth and leaders of Lakeside Church, Hattiesburg, sponsored a Valentine banquet Feb. 8 to raise money for M-Fuge in Tennessee. Over \$400 in donations was received.

18. Tangipahoa Church, Summit, licensed E.J. Didon to the ministry. Shown are Mike Morris and Didon.

19. The GAs of First Church, Vancleave, collected food for World Hunger Sunday. Shown are the participants.



21. Concord Church Christmas presentation



22. Sandersville Church Christmas cantata



23. Gillsburg church RAs

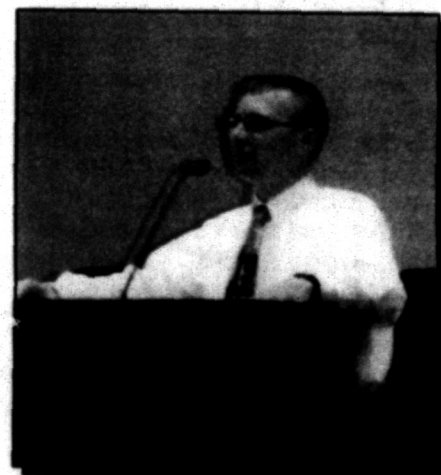
20. Shivers Church, Shivers, broke ground on their new building Oct. 28, 2007. Shown is the building committee. Gene Erwin, pastor.

21. The youth, children, and adults of Concord Church, Booneville, presented Christmas on the Creek for four nights during the Christmas season. Shown are some of the participants.

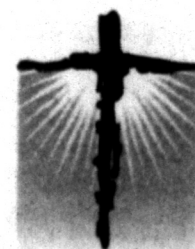
22. The children's choir of Sandersville Church, Sandersville, presented the cantata Christmas Joy Dec. 23, 2007. Shown are the participants.

23. The RAs of Gillsburg Church, Gillsburg, attended the LSU baseball clinic Feb. 9. Shown are the participants.

24. Big Level Church, Wiggins, celebrated Baptist Men's Day Jan. 27, with laymen Rob Cowan (shown) and Mark Rawls preaching.



24. Cowan, Big Level Church, Wiggins



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS



## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

### By the Book

2 Timothy 1:8-12; 3:14-4:4

By Rick Henson

For March we focus on 3:16 living in a 9/11 world. Since September 11, 2001 our attention as a nation has been on ourselves, our security and our future. In the Bible are vital passages that all have the address 3:16. Each week we will examine these 3:16 passages and learn what God says about living a victorious life in a 9/11 world.

God's word is a sure foundation. 2 Timothy 3:16 reads, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness." The voices of secularism demand tolerance for their intolerant, absolutist view that no absolute truths exist. Yet God's word withstood the test of time as countless rulers, powers,

nations, movements, ideologies, philosophies and religions attempted to silence its message and declare it obsolete. Those rulers are all in the grave. Their powers and nations are fodder for the History Channel. Those movements and ideologies have fallen like the Berlin Wall. The philosophies and religions that questioned God's word were proved empty and powerless. God's word, however, continues daily to change lives, inspire and instruct the body of Christ, and to reveal God's message to a world in need of salvation in Jesus Christ.

We can trust God's word. Skeptics always question the veracity of God's word. In the aftermath of the nineteenth century age of reasoning, scholars claimed that God's word was a



Henson

work of man, possibly containing some spiritual lessons, but certainly not divine. When the Dead Sea scrolls were discovered in 1947, the followers of these scoffers claimed that we would have to re-write the Bible. They taught that the Bible

was filled with major errors from the transmission of the Bible as it was passed from generation to generation. They waited with glee for the translations of the scrolls and the reprints of the Bible. The oldest of the Dead Sea scrolls carbon date to before 300 B.C., so the skeptics were sure that the Bible we have today could not possibly be the same Scripture found in the caves near the Dead Sea.

Yet when the translations of the ancient texts were made public, the critics were silent, for the Old Testament we have today is the same as it was then, with only minor spelling changes. No re-write was necessary. God miraculously gave us His word, and He miraculously protected His word. We can

trust the Bible to be God's word for humankind today.

We must obey God's word. James 1:25 teaches that we will be blessed if we are doers of the word as well as hearers. Many hear the word, say "Amen," and then do not do what it says. Saying you believe in tithing is being a hearer. Writing a tithe check each month is being a doer of the word. Stating that you believe John 15:2 is the word of God is being a hearer. Loving others as Jesus has loved us is being a doer of the word.

In the past few decades our denomination settled its belief in the inerrancy and infallibility of the Word of God. A few disagree, like author John Grisham who recently criticized those who believe the Bible to be literally true and accurate (Baptist Record February 7, 2008). The huge majority of us, however, believes God's word and will gladly say so. Saying you believe the word and not obeying it is duplicitous. James wrote that the one who hears the word but does not do what it says is self-

deceived. If we trust God's word, then let us obey it.

We are commanded to Share God's word. Four lepers in 2 Kings 7 discovered that God had delivered besieged Samaria. These lepers were dying in a besieged city and decided to throw themselves on the mercy of the Arameans. When they arrived they found the enemy camp deserted. God has caused the enemy to hear the sound of a great army and they fled. For hours the lepers went from tent to tent enjoying the bounty of God's victory. Then they said, "We are not doing well. We must share this good news." The King and all the people were still suffering in a city that had already been delivered.

Most Christians today are doing the same. They enjoy the victory of God's salvation and keep the good news to themselves, while lost people are enslaved by an enemy that has already been defeated. Trust God's word. Obey God's word. Share God's word.

Henson is pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Responding to God with Faith

Genesis 28: 1-2, 10-22

By Marion D. Duncan

At the beginning of Genesis 28, Isaac is blessing his son, Jacob, and sending him away to the homeland of Rebekah charging him to find a wife from the God-fearing people in Paddan-aram (See 2 Corinthians 6:14-NIV). This was the surface reason for his departure, although, Abraham had sent his servant there to find a proper wife for Isaac. Because of the broken relationship between him and his twin brother, Esau, over the stolen birthright, Jacob's life was in danger, and he needed protection. All of the deceit, separation, and alienation that followed could have been avoided if Rebekah had trusted God when He told her that the older of her sons would serve the younger (Genesis 25:23 NIV). It is impor-

tant to note here that we can trust God and obey His will because He intends good for us, and He is the promise-keeping God. He expects us to listen for his voice speaking to us and respond in obedience by taking steps of faith.

Jacob set out on his journey and traveled intensely until he could go no farther from exhaustion and weariness and setting of the sun. As he settled down for the night, he lay on the ground with a stone under his head, and he fell asleep looking at the stars in the heavens above him. Jacob had an encouraging vision that night in the form of a dream—a vision that would enable him to take a step of faith. He saw a stairway reaching from the ground up through the clouds, and on it were God's angels



Duncan

going up and down. The Lord stood there beside him and reassured him of the blessing that was his—"he had been chosen to be the bearer of the promise." (The Broadman Bible Commentary) The promise: (1) the land on which he lay

(Canaan) would belong to his descendants, (2) his descendants would multiply like the dust of the earth, and (3) all people would be blessed through his descendants (promise of the Messiah). (Genesis 28:13-15 NIV)

Jacob awakened from his sleep with an affirmation that the God of Abraham and Isaac wanted to be and would be the God of Jacob. He took a step of faith and was a believer from that point in his life. He learned that heaven was an actual and accessible place—the ladder up to heaven—and angels going up and down into the presence of God. Christ later identified himself to

Nathaniel as the ladder that Jacob saw. "(Jesus) is the link between earth and heaven...He bridges the immeasurable distance between Deity and humanity, heaven and earth." (Exploring Genesis, by John Phillips) To reverence the place where he met the Lord, Jacob took the stone on which his head had rested, and set it up as a pillar to mark the spot so that when he came back he might build a lasting monument of his encounter with God. He poured oil on it as an indication that he would return and build the altar that should be there. He gave a new name to the place which had been Luz, an almond tree, calling it Beth-el, the house of God. (Genesis 28:16-19) "This gracious appearance of God to him put a greater honour upon it, and made it more remarkable, than all the almond-trees that flourished there." (Genesis by Matthew Henry)

The Lord renewed the covenant with Jacob that He had made with Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 28:13-14 NIV), and then made some promises to Jacob.

God promised to be with him and watch over him wherever he went, to bring him back to this land which He had promised to give him and his descendants, and not to leave him until He had done what He had promised. In acknowledging God's promises, Jacob appropriately made a vow to God. Notice Jacob's step of faith. Inferred in verses 20-22 is, "Seeing God will be with me, and will keep me, as He has said, and will provide comfortably for me, and seeing He has promised to bring me again to this land, to my father's house, I depend on it. Then I will rejoice in the Lord as my God. This pillar shall keep possession here till I return in peace, and then shall it be God's house, and of all that you give me, I will give you a tenth." Jacob would never forget two things: God's place and God's portion. (Genesis by Henry, paraphrased)

Duncan is WMU director at First Church, Starkville

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will

be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be

clear, sharp, and well-lighted. **Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.**

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

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Larry Davis  
Mrs. Bertha Vickers & Children  
Enos F. Derbonne, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Delk  
Darrell Dickens  
Mrs. Jane H. Bailey  
Rev. & Mrs. Johnny Parks  
Mr. Glenn Dragna  
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Haskins  
David L. Dunaway  
Mr. & Mrs. David M. Ferriss  
Ivy D. Dupree  
Mr. & Mrs. C. B. Sledge  
Mr. Dewey Dyess  
Ms. Jennie M. Knight  
Danny Easterling  
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Edwards  
Mrs. Grace Dobbs Ellifling  
Mr. Charles W. Holmes  
Career-Tech Dept, Hinds CC,  
Rymnd  
Hinds Com College Career-Tech  
Dep  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy T. Hollingsworth  
Ms. Carolyn Williams Ellard  
Al & Sandra Hamilton  
Dr. & Mrs. Joe Ivy Gillespie  
Mr. Pat Ferguson  
Dr. & Mrs. Harold Ward  
Henry Forrest Flemming  
Mr. & Mrs. Al Barfield  
Mrs. Marsha Jane Kenneth  
Mr. & Mrs. Ricky Pullen  
Rev. James A. Fondren  
Mr. Joel A. Edlin  
Mr. Wayne Fortenberry  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dew  
Brandon Foshee  
Brett, Teresa & Sarah Alexander  
Rick Fussell  
Mr. & Mrs. Henry E. Davis  
Geneva Gardner  
Mr. Bobby C. Gardner  
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Gay  
Dr. & Mrs. Norman R. Saliba  
Mrs. Louie Mae Giles  
Ms. Martha M. Putnam  
Mr. & Mrs. Buford Berry  
Mrs. Odie Gillespie  
Ms. Julie H. Halfacre  
Ted Givens  
Mr. & Mrs. Reece Douglas Jr.  
Mrs. Dorothy M. Glover  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Petty  
Mr. & Mrs. Smith Heavner  
Rev. Jewel S. & Lena McGraw  
Golem  
Mr. & Mrs. William Peeler  
Leon Goodson  
Mr. & Mrs. James Crosby  
Mrs. Thelma C. Woodyear  
Mr. David Goza  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Mrs. Lucille Grammer  
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Rogers  
Scottie Gray, III  
Wes Wharton (IOS Pipeliner  
Medic)  
Mrs. Mary Gray  
Miss Willinda Daws  
Mrs. H. H. Daws  
Mrs. Ottilie Sue Griffin  
Jerusalem Baptist Church  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Mrs. Susie Griffith  
Ladies Bible Class, Prentiss BC  
Mrs. Lynda Gross  
FBC Adult Choir - Carthage  
Mr. & Mrs. Lendon E. Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. Noah M. Mills  
Tony & Susan Kinton  
Mr. Gary Hacker  
Mrs. Dot Griffin  
Ruby Hargon  
Mr. & Mrs. George M. Eagle  
Linda Harkins  
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church  
Ms. Jean D. Evans  
Patty Harman  
Ross & Sonya Liles  
Jim Harris  
Mr. & Mrs. Glen King  
Frances Allen Hart  
Mr. T. D. Rice Jr.  
Mary Ellen Henderson  
Mrs. Wilma Walsh  
Mrs. Melvin Henderson  
Mans Hill Baptist Church  
Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Bell  
Baron Hendry  
Ms. Debbie Creel  
W. L. Hillman  
FBC Adult Choir - Carthage  
Ms. Marie Callahan

Ms. Helen Coleman  
Mrs. June D. Shepard  
Mrs. Becky Hodges  
East Louisville Baptist Church  
Tina Holloway  
Mr. & Mrs. Berlon Breazeale  
Kenneth Horton  
Ms. Louise Hollingsworth  
Johnny Howarth  
Dr. & Mrs. Theodore C. Miller  
Mrs. Jane Howell  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Helen Hudson  
Pine Burr Baptist Church  
Andy Hughes  
Mary & Morris Sorrells  
Mr. Charles Warren  
Rev. William Hull, Jr.  
Ms. Mary K. Payton  
Mrs. Ethelyn Hutchison  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Mr. Danny Jenkins  
Ms. Barbara Ann Little  
Geraldine "Jeri" Johnson  
Pinduster League  
Ms. Linda Combs  
Mr. Tommy Luke  
Mrs. Mary Ellen Legge Johnson  
Robert & Sue Wilkie  
Mr. Ernie Joiner  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Bedwell  
Mrs. Kent F. McFarland  
Mr. & Mrs. Opal McLeomore  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie Price  
Mrs. Edna Scott  
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Tingle  
Mrs. Gladys Jones  
Mr. Phil Kline  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Peoples  
Mr. Joyner  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy R. Barnett  
Mrs. Zelma Belle Keeler  
Dr. & Mrs. James E. Little  
The Fidelity SSC, Morrison Hgts BC  
Mr. & Mrs. Hale Singletary  
Eva Nell Keene Lambright  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Maggio  
Louise, Myra, Jean & Janet Allgood  
Mr. Timothy Land  
Mrs. Mabel Truhitt  
Richard Lantrip  
Mr. Robert T. Jeffries  
Tom Larrimore  
Dr. & Mrs. Anthony S. Kay  
Mr. Jim Laycock  
Mr. & Mrs. James W. Apperson Sr.  
Miss. Irie Lee  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry W. Magee  
Mr. G. A. Liles  
Mrs. Hiram Davis, Jr.  
Daniel Loyd Lofton  
Ray & Alana Greer  
Mr. Chid Lofton  
Mr. & Mrs. Altus Holmes  
Mrs. Mildred Lyons  
Mrs. Era C. Peters  
Mr. Charles O. Mangrum  
Mr. & Mrs. Alton Taylor  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
L'Neil Martin  
Rev. & Mrs. R. L. Sigrest Jr.  
Will John Martin  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank O. Crosthwait Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. W. C. McAuley  
Mr. & Mrs. Don C. McAuley  
Rogers McGraw  
Harold & Ann Carleton  
Ruth McGraw  
Virginia & Ron Selden  
Mrs. Vern McKenzie  
Ms. Jennie M. Knight  
Mr. Glenn McKittick  
Jamie & Beth Hendrix & Family  
Clyde Austin McLeod  
James Earl & Polly Harvey & Family  
Idell McNair  
Calhoun County Senior Adults  
Laura McNeel  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy R. Barnett  
Mrs. Nell Terrell McNeil  
Liberty BC Men's Bible Class  
Patti L. McPhail  
Mr. & Mrs. Roger M. Myrick  
Ann M. McWilliams  
Elizabeth M. Tate  
Dan Meador  
Mrs. Wilma Walsh  
Geraldine Mercer  
Mrs. Wilma Walsh  
Mr. Harvey Millam  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry E. Champion  
Mary Alice Miles  
Homemakers SSC, Indian  
Springs BC-Laurel  
Mrs. Jeanette Miller  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Allen  
Mrs. Mary Potts Miller  
Mrs. Dot Griffin  
Mrs. Debra Mizell  
Ms. Rene Dungan  
Ardell Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael W. Betts  
Mr. Steve Myrick  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Morris Naaro  
Mr. & Mrs. William F. Harris  
Robert Nail  
The Bill Curtis Family  
Morris Narro  
John & Donna Murphy  
Jamie Nelson  
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Allen  
Era Nix  
Mrs. Nancy Shelton  
Jessie Morgan O'Brien  
Ms. Wilda S. Ebanks  
Charlie Odum  
Oak Forest BC-WMU, Jackson  
Robyn Oglesby  
Mrs. Thelma C. Woodyear  
Lynn Owen  
Harry Neal & Weezie Corder  
Robert Pace  
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Hitt

Mrs. Mary Lee Broome Parkman  
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Hutton  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
The Russell Broome Family  
Anthony D. Patterson  
Bettie Lindley & John Dell  
Hucabee  
Mr. Pickens  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy R. Barnett  
Mr. Earl Poindexter  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Mrs. Marilyn Means Porter  
Jim & Mary Jo Carson  
Allen & Suzanne Shelton  
Keith Prescott  
Mrs. Barbara S. Burris  
Marie Prewitt  
Mr. & Mrs. Berlon Breazeale  
Mrs. JoAnna Miller Prince  
Ms. Bettye Logan  
Mr. Jimonce Puckett  
Dr. & Mrs. Dan Stringer  
Mrs. Velma Pylate  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Mrs. Oda Lee Radiron  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Mr. Rasmussen  
Mr. & Mrs. B. R. Taylor  
Mrs. Margaret Rayburn  
Scruggs Law Firm  
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Keeton Jr.  
Alex Reeves  
Northrup Chapel Baptist Church,  
Quitman  
Kevin Dale Reid  
Mr. & Mrs. Miller Reid  
Robert Revere  
Bill, Stewart & Trent Curtis  
Mr. Jack Revis  
Rev. & Mrs. Roger W. Alewine  
Johnny Ray Roberts, Sr.  
Mr. Tommy Roberts  
Mr. Elmo Robertson  
Mrs. Dorothy Hasson  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Loftin  
Alice Hall Rogers  
Bettie Lindley & John Dell  
Hucabee  
Jamie Rogers  
Jess, Janet & Ben Dickinson  
Ollie Hercl Rown  
Mr. & Mrs. F. R. Clark  
Eunice Marie Griffith Rutland  
Gerald & Dottie Buchanan  
Georgia Saucier  
Ruth SSC, Juniper Grove BC-  
Poplar  
Wayne Savell  
County Line Baptist Church  
Jessie Sawyer  
McAdams Baptist Church  
Ms. Peggy Scott  
Robert & Sue Wilkie

## BCV Employment Opportunities

The Baptist Children's Village is now accepting applications through March 31, 2008 for openings on the India Nunnery Campus in Jackson and the Reedy Acres Campus in Water Valley for the position of houseparent.

The primary job responsibility of a houseparent is to maintain a home-like environment that models healthy, Christian family living for children and/or youth residents. Other duties of a houseparent are many and are varied and somewhat dependent upon the specific program and cottage to which assigned. The following list of responsibilities is to provide an overview of the job and is not an exhaustive list.

### Job responsibilities:

- Provide immediate supervision of residents in the cottage and other settings
- Participate fully in the implementation of each resident's Plan of Care
- Model Christian values and lifestyle for residents and their families
- Model a healthy physical, social and emotional lifestyle for residents
- Serve as the primary transportation resource for residents of assigned cottage

### Job requirements:

- 25-65 years of age
- A husband/wife team will be considered for this position
- Good physical, mental and emotional health
- Stable, even disposition
- Valid driver's license with a good driving record
- Educational background must be at a minimum a GED, but some college is preferred
- Experience in child rearing is preferred
- Must be flexible and able to work in a team environment
- Good organizational skills

To request an application please contact Celeste Cade at [ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com](mailto:ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com) or call 601-922-2242.

Mrs. Mary Lee Broome Parkman  
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Hutton  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
The Russell Broome Family  
Anthony D. Patterson  
Bettie Lindley & John Dell  
Hucabee  
Mr. Pickens  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy R. Barnett  
Mr. Earl Poindexter  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Mrs. Marilyn Means Porter  
Jim & Mary Jo Carson  
Allen & Suzanne Shelton  
Keith Prescott  
Mrs. Barbara S. Burris  
Marie Prewitt  
Mr. & Mrs. Berlon Breazeale  
Mrs. JoAnna Miller Prince  
Ms. Bettye Logan  
Mr. Jimonce Puckett  
Dr. & Mrs. Dan Stringer  
Mrs. Velma Pylate  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Mrs. Oda Lee Radiron  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Mr. Rasmussen  
Mr. & Mrs. B. R. Taylor  
Mrs. Margaret Rayburn  
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Mr. & Mrs. John T. Keeton Jr.  
Alex Reeves  
Northrup Chapel Baptist Church,  
Quitman  
Kevin Dale Reid  
Mr. & Mrs. Miller Reid  
Robert Revere  
Bill, Stewart & Trent Curtis  
Mr. Jack Revis  
Rev. & Mrs. Roger W. Alewine  
Johnny Ray Roberts, Sr.  
Mr. Tommy Roberts  
Mr. Elmo Robertson  
Mrs. Dorothy Hasson  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Loftin  
Alice Hall Rogers  
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Hucabee  
Jamie Rogers  
Jess, Janet & Ben Dickinson  
Ollie Hercl Rown  
Mr. & Mrs. F. R. Clark  
Eunice Marie Griffith Rutland  
Gerald & Dottie Buchanan  
Georgia Saucier  
Ruth SSC, Juniper Grove BC-  
Poplar  
Wayne Savell  
County Line Baptist Church  
Jessie Sawyer  
McAdams Baptist Church  
Ms. Peggy Scott  
Robert & Sue Wilkie

Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs  
Shane Sears  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry W. Magee  
Anna "Sweetpea" Shepard  
Mr. & Mrs. John W. Edwards  
Mrs. Cecille Shornick  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Wasson  
Judy B. Sims  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Mr. & Mrs. Alton Taylor  
Sherwood Sims  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy T. Hollingsworth  
Mr. Charles W. Holmes  
Hullett Skinner  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul G. Shelby  
Amanda Ruth Slocum  
Mr. & Mrs. K. C. Smith  
Lorena Smith  
Pine Burr Baptist Church  
Millard Smith  
Mrs. Mildred S. Neal  
Tom Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Grisham Sr.  
Jimmy D. Sejourner  
Bob & Mary Emily Connor  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank O. Crosthwait Jr.  
Clifford Bell  
Mr. & Mrs. C. C. Knight  
Vivian Miller  
Don Sorrels  
Mr. & Mrs. G. C. Hankins  
Dr. & Mrs. Randy Hankins  
Keith Spears  
Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Malone  
Mrs. Ruby Rae Davis Stampley  
Allen & Jane Perry  
Dr. Van D. Quick  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth E. Lee  
Rev. & Mrs. James Yates  
Rebecca & Matthew Perry  
Rev. & Mrs. Billy W. Stanford  
Eddie & Tammy Templeton  
Louise Templeton  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene A. Triggs  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Coward Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Hutton  
Mrs. Ann Stamps  
Ms. Bettye Logan  
Eloise Stephenson  
Donald Boswell Family  
Maurice J. Boswell  
Joseph Lannon Family  
Mrs. Mavis Sterling  
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Dixon  
Mrs. Dixie Stogner  
Ms. Jennie M. Knight  
Sister of John Sumner  
Bettie Lindley & John Dell  
Hucabee  
William Sykes  
Mr. & Mrs. James Round &

Family  
John William & Annie Louise  
Tarver  
Tarver Foundation  
Mr. Roy L. Taylor  
Mrs. June Stephenson  
Mrs. Lottie Terrell  
Liberty BC Men's Bible Class  
Franklin D. Thames  
Ken & Charlotte Ellzy  
Ms. Eva L. Winingham  
Mrs. Dorothy Thompson  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry M. Howell  
Owen Todd  
Paul & Lavenia Bullard  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul G. Shelby  
Employees Of Super Junior  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael D. Allen  
Mr. Bill Torbert  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Bell  
Mrs. Carmen Turner  
Ms. Nina J. Herbert  
Rusty Sinn  
Tom Tyler  
Thomas & Leslie Hassett  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Morrow  
Billy Eugene Tyson  
Julia & Avis Louise Mullins  
Mrs. Thelma C. Woodyear  
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Bodron  
Mrs. Ruby Underwood  
Mr. & Mrs. Lanny Mosley  
Mr. Herman Walker  
Mr. & Mrs. Reece Douglas Jr.  
Bonnie Walley  
Al & Kim Jones  
Mr. John T. Watkins  
Teresa & Scooter Henderson  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy T. Hollingsworth  
Mr. Charles W. Holmes  
Virginia Watkins  
Mr. & Mrs. Perry E. Atherton  
Mrs. Virginia Selden  
Mrs. Frances Boushe West  
Richie & Frances Defenbaugh  
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Martin  
Mr. & Mrs. Hayes Branscome  
Mr. Samuel F. Brewer  
Mr. & Mrs. George D. Lofton Jr.  
Jimmy Westbrook  
Mrs. Bessie T. Coker  
Allen Williams  
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Allen  
Robert Williams  
Oak Forest BC-WMU, Jackson  
Roland Wilson  
M. D. & Marjane Whitfield  
Maggie Worthy  
Linda Allen  
Sharon Hays  
Rozelle Pittman





## 2007 HONOR ROLL OF CHURCHES

Each January, The Baptist Children's Village evaluates the cash gifts received from churches during the previous twelve months. In this evaluation, it has become customary to publish the top Mississippi Baptist churches in descending order of designated cash gifts. This does not include non-cash gift items or volunteer efforts that many churches contribute. This analysis has become known as the "Honor Roll of Churches."

Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

RANK	CHURCH NAME	CITY	2007 GIFTS
1	West Kemper Baptist Church	De Kalb	\$55,000.00
2	Morrison Heights Baptist Church	Clinton	\$38,799.82
3	Immanuel Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$38,627.73
4	Bunker Hill Baptist Church	Columbia	\$28,176.18
5	First Baptist Church	Jackson	\$21,713.00
6	First Baptist Church	Water Valley	\$20,481.00
7	Bel Aire Baptist Church	Gulfport	\$19,733.00
8	First Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$14,632.12
9	First Baptist Church	Richton	\$14,404.11
10	Brandon Baptist Church	Brandon	\$13,974.65
11	Perkinson Baptist Church	Perkinson	\$13,842.76
12	First Baptist Church	Corinth	\$13,527.07
13	First Baptist Church	Batesville	\$13,405.00
14	Murphy Creek Baptist Church	Louisville	\$12,935.97
15	Williamsville Baptist Church	Kosciusko	\$12,518.93
16	Steep Hollow Baptist Church	Poplarville	\$11,988.81
17	Cornerstone Baptist Church	Olive Branch	\$11,251.12
18	Bellehaven Baptist Church	Ocean Springs	\$11,167.29
19	East Philadelphia Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$11,063.37
20	Fredonia Baptist Church	New Albany	\$10,511.00
21	First Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$10,141.00
22	Hillcrest Baptist Church	Yazoo City	\$10,000.00
23	Eastwood Baptist Church	Monroeville	\$10,000.00
24	Pontotoc County Baptist Association	Pontotoc	\$10,000.00
25	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Carthage	\$9,999.37
26	Faith Baptist Church	Meridian	\$9,767.32
27	Briar Hill Baptist Church	Florence	\$9,567.65
28	Memorial Baptist Church	Richton	\$9,522.89
29	Seminary Baptist Church	Seminary	\$9,440.54
30	North Greenwood Baptist Church	Greenwood	\$9,220.46
31	Trinity Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$9,103.58
32	First Baptist Church	Natchez	\$9,025.71
33	First Baptist Church	Madison	\$8,860.33
34	First Baptist Church	Laurel	\$8,755.00
35	Calvary Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$8,542.00
36	Walhall Baptist Church	Walhall	\$8,419.00
37	Gaston Baptist Church	Booneville	\$8,359.71
38	Pine Forest Baptist Church	Collinsville	\$8,352.46
39	First Baptist Church	Hazlehurst	\$8,303.60
40	Fellowship Baptist Church	Meridian	\$8,254.17
41	Rolling Creek Baptist Church	Quitman	\$8,116.06
42	Rienzi Baptist Church	Rienzi	\$8,060.61
43	Trinity First Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$7,934.82
44	Calvary Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$7,867.39
45	First Baptist Church	Clinton	\$7,831.70
46	Harmony Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	\$7,703.82
47	First Baptist Church	Sardis	\$7,693.54
48	First Baptist Church	Newton	\$7,663.83
49	First Baptist Church	Union	\$7,650.00
50	First Baptist Church	Canton	\$7,600.00
51	First Baptist Church	McComb	\$7,525.91
52	Topisaw Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	\$7,500.00
53	Prentiss Baptist Church	Prentiss	\$7,318.93
54	Sylvarena Baptist Church	Raleigh	\$7,305.70
55	First Baptist Church	Abbeville	\$7,111.96
56	Indian Springs Baptist Church	Laurel	\$6,995.74
57	Parkway Baptist Church	Kosciusko	\$6,924.38
58	First Baptist Church	Booneville	\$6,924.06
59	First Baptist Church	Yazoo City	\$6,820.90
60	Shiloh Baptist Church	Port Gibson	\$6,799.10
61	Liberty Baptist Church	Liberty	\$6,692.66
62	Hurricane Creek Baptist Church	Sandy Hook	\$6,637.07
63	Bovina Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$6,612.00
64	First Baptist Church	Greenville	\$6,601.50
65	First Baptist Church	Picayune	\$6,600.25
66	Crossview Baptist Church	Brandon	\$6,393.00
67	Stanton Baptist Church	Natchez	\$6,359.65
68	Raymond Baptist Church	Raymond	\$6,325.00
69	Vaiden Baptist Church	Vaiden	\$6,318.19
70	Spring Creek Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$6,261.23
71	Parkway Baptist Church	Clinton	\$6,250.00
72	Old Silver Creek Baptist Church	Silver Creek	\$6,240.20
73	Sand Hill Baptist Church	Richton	\$6,230.00
74	Bethany Baptist Church	Potts Camp	\$6,215.00
75	Deoto Hills Baptist Church	Southaven	\$6,213.31
76	First Baptist Church	Louisville	\$6,147.26
77	Leaf River Baptist Church	Collins	\$6,077.00
78	First Baptist Church	Raleigh	\$6,069.75
79	X-Tended Missions Network	Hernando	\$6,000.00
80	Branch Baptist Church	Morton	\$5,951.43
81	Hurley Baptist Church	Hurley	\$5,779.98
82	Oak Grove Baptist Church	Mendenhall	\$5,775.49
83	First Baptist Church	Starkville	\$5,683.84
84	First Baptist Church	Coldwater	\$5,577.50
85	Unity Baptist Church	Harrisville	\$5,510.73
86	Tylertown Baptist Church	Tylertown	\$5,472.09
87	Topeka Baptist Church	Jayess	\$5,441.39
88	First Baptist Church	Collins	\$5,380.75
89	Valley Park Baptist Church	Valley Park	\$5,343.88
90	Springfield Baptist Church	Morton	\$5,332.00
91	Tomnolen Baptist Church	Eupora	\$5,249.19
92	Forest Baptist Church	Forest	\$5,055.00
93	Concord Baptist Church	Macon	\$5,005.00
94	Highland Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$4,991.96
95	Mount Zion Baptist Church-Tate	Independence	\$4,975.26
96	Broadmoor Baptist Church	Madison	\$4,954.67
97	Wildwood Baptist Church	Clinton	\$4,947.38
98	First Baptist Church	Senatobia	\$4,873.93
99	Clarke-Venable Baptist Church	Decatur	\$4,803.96
100	Northminster Baptist Church	Jackson	\$4,800.00
101	Old Pearl Valley Baptist Church	Philadelphia	\$4,800.00
102	First Baptist Church	Quitman	\$4,790.00
103	Crystal Ridge Baptist Church	Louisville	\$4,781.98
104	Union Baptist Church	Meridian	\$4,762.73
105	Bucatanne Baptist Church	Meridian	\$4,718.88
106	Dublin Baptist Church	Carson	\$4,704.37
107	Meadville Baptist Church	Meadville	\$4,695.00
108	First Baptist Church	Brandon	\$4,667.74
109	First Baptist Church	Columbia	\$4,628.56
110	Church Road Baptist Church	Horn Lake	\$4,549.74
111	New Sight Baptist Church	Brookhaven	\$4,546.72
112	Liberty Baptist Church	Waynesboro	\$4,500.00
113	County Line Baptist Church	Union	\$4,484.25
114	Dry Creek Baptist Church	Mendenhall	\$4,450.00
115	Goodwater Baptist Church	Magee	\$4,431.21
116	Fairview Baptist Church	Columbus	\$4,385.00
117	First Baptist Church	Vicksburg	\$4,375.10
118	Silver Creek Baptist Church	McComb	\$4,347.88
119	Anchor Baptist Church	Water Valley	\$4,342.00

120	Liberty Baptist Church	4,311.77
121	First Baptist Church	4,288.00
122	First Baptist Church	4,248.33
123	First Baptist Church, Lyman	4,222.49
124	Grays Creek Baptist Church	4,180.61
125	Carrollton Baptist Church	4,162.84
126	Hillcrest Baptist Church	4,146.00
127	Central Baptist Church	4,055.41
128	North Winona Baptist Church	4,011.52
129	Ackerman Baptist Church	3,969.17
130	Neshoba Baptist Church	3,966.79
131	Phalti Baptist Church	3,944.10
132	Eastwood Baptist Church	3,925.66
133	High Hill Baptist Church	3,910.69
134	Trinity Baptist Church	3,899.52
135	New Hope Baptist Church	3,835.00
136	Harmony Baptist Church	3,800.00
137	Bay Springs Baptist Church	3,777.75
138	D'Lo Baptist Church	3,771.31
139	First Baptist Church	3,764.00
140	First Baptist Church	3,750.00
141	First Baptist Church	3,721.05
142	First Baptist Church	3,709.67
143	Woolmarket Baptist Church	3,700.47
144	Mount Moriah Baptist Church	3,667.00
145	Westwood Baptist Church	3,655.95
146	Crane Creek Baptist Church	3,642.91
147	Holcomb Baptist Church	3,626.63
148	First Baptist Church	3,625.35
149	Hollandale Baptist Church	3,615.44
150	First Baptist Church, Delisle	3,600.00
151	New County Line Church	3,554.00
152	Mount Zion Baptist Church	3,550.00
153	Thrasher Baptist Church	3,525.00
154	Improve Baptist Church	3,502.80
155	Beulah Baptist Church	3,500.00
156	DeSoto Baptist Church	3,485.91
157	Ephesus Baptist Church	3,446.55
158	Valley Grove Baptist Church	3,438.13
159	Oakvale Baptist Church	3,402.20
160	Mount Moriah Baptist Church	3,374.30
161	West Jackson Street Church	3,357.08
162	Oak Forest Baptist Church	3,350.00
163	New Hope Baptist Church	3,309.47
164	Central Baptist Church	3,250.71
165	First Baptist Church	3,240.51
166	First Baptist Church	3,230.00
167	Temple Baptist Church	3,224.00
168	Deer Creek Baptist Church	3,200.00
169	Shiloh Baptist Church	3,189.00
170	First Baptist Church	3,181.54
171	Emmanuel Baptist Church	3,145.38
172	First Baptist Church	3,125.00
173	Rocky Point Baptist Church	3,101.48
174	Calvary Baptist Church	3,090.23
175	Union Baptist Church	3,083.37
176	Calvary Baptist Church	3,058.50
177	Lexie Baptist Church	3,057.26
178	First Baptist Church	3,034.02
179	Arkabutla Baptist Church	3,029.63
180	Midway Baptist Church	3,026.00
181	First Baptist Church	3,015.04
182	Silver Springs Baptist Church	2,998.50
183	Braxton Baptist Church	2,996.00
184	West End Baptist Church	2,984.26
185	Harmony Baptist Church	2,965.96
186	First Baptist Church	2,950.50
187	Cairo Baptist Church	2,931.46
188	Arm Baptist Church	2,920.54
189	Rock Hill Baptist Church	2,911.10
190	New Harmony Baptist Church	2,892.39
191	First Baptist Church	2,885.96
192	Providence Baptist Church	2,880.65
193	Macedonia Baptist Church	2,875.00
194	Rome Baptist Church	2,850.00
195	Society Hill Baptist Church	2,835.30
196	Bayou View Baptist Church	2,817.50
197	Eden Baptist Church	2,811.88
198	Ingomar Baptist Church	2,788.00
199	First Baptist Church, Runnelstown	2,776.25
200	Parkway Baptist Church	2,774.49
201	Newhebron Baptist Church	2,744.87
202	Concord Baptist Church	2,741.00
203	Freedom Baptist Church	2,724.35
204	First Baptist Church	2,709.96
205	Chesterville Baptist Church	2,707.43
206	Ruleville Baptist Church	2,697.00
207	Pine Grove Baptist Church	2,615.00
208	Caney Baptist Church	2,608.30
209	Short Creek Baptist Church	2,600.00
210	Midway Baptist Church	2,590.00
211	Whitesand Baptist Church	2,588.00
212	Trinity Baptist Church	2,587.84
213	Tuscola Baptist Church	2,580.00
214	New Hope Baptist Church	2,561.58
215	Alta Woods Baptist Church	2,555.00
216	New Bethel Baptist Church	2,552.93
217	First Baptist Church	2,546.46
218	Calvary Baptist Church	2,532.74
219	Big Creek Baptist Church	2,532.18
220	Good Hope Baptist Church	2,519.00
221	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	2,515.00
222	Rocky Creek Baptist Church	2,510.50
223	Selah Baptist Church	2,505.00
224	Bogue Chitto Baptist Church	2,505.00
225	Chunky Baptist Church	2,500.00
226	First Baptist Church	2,479.08
227	Evergreen Baptist Church	2,475.00
228	Mount Pisgah Baptist Church	2,468.31
229	Friendship Baptist Church	2,451.37
230	Calvary Baptist Church	2,437.50
231	Gallman Baptist Church	2,422.00
232	Bethsaida Baptist Church	2,400.00
233	Oak Hill Baptist Church	2,400.00
234	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	2,394.01
235	First Baptist Church	2,386.00
236	Cedar Grove Baptist Church	2,359.60
237	Oakland Baptist Church	2,349.61
238	Beulah Baptist Church	2,338.02
239	First Baptist Church	2,320.96
240	First Baptist Church	2,314.00
241	Casey Creek Baptist Church	2,292.00
242	First Baptist Church	2,275.00
243	West Ripley Baptist Church	2,267.90
244	Wade Baptist Church	2,260.00
245	First Baptist Church	2,249.67
246	Bethsaida Baptist Church	2,243.00
247	Dixie Baptist Church	2,241.35
248	First Baptist Church	2,220.00
249	South Louisville Baptist Church	2,217.05
250	Liberty Baptist Church	2,210.00
251	Longview Heights Baptist Church	2,207.85
252	Singleton Baptist Church	2,200.00
253	Pinckney Baptist Church	2,199.00
254	Remus Baptist Church	2,198.39
255	Red Hill Baptist Church	2,194.00
256	Indian Springs Baptist Church	2,190.00
257	First Baptist Church	2,180.00
258	Bethel Baptist Church	2,179.33
259	Sturgis Baptist Church	2,153.83
260	First Baptist Church	2,150.27
261	First Baptist Church	2,150.00
262	Magee's Creek Baptist Church	2,140.00
263	Hathorn Baptist Church	2,139.22
264	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	2,134.19
265	Causesville Baptist Church	2,094.87
266	Leaf River Baptist Church	2,085.00



269	Kolola Springs Baptist Church	Caledonia	2,080.00	419	Center Ridge Baptist Church	De Kalb	1,400.00
270	First Baptist Church	Collinsville	2,075.00	420	Union Ridge Baptist Church	Noxapater	1,400.00
271	Siloam Baptist Church	Magee	2,068.82	421	Border Springs Baptist Church	Caledonia	1,400.00
272	Faith Baptist Church	Hickory Flat	2,067.01	422	Brookville Baptist Church	Brooksville	1,393.79
273	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	2,050.00	423	Water Oak Baptist Church	Waynesboro	1,386.54
274	Wheeler Grove Baptist Church	Corinth	2,050.00	424	County Line Baptist Church	Carthage	1,384.94
275	Sebastopol Baptist Church	Sebastopol	2,050.00	425	Ludlow Baptist Church	Ludlow	1,379.50
276	Christ Baptist Church	Greenwood	2,050.00	426	Ridgecrest Baptist Church	Madison	1,378.09
277	Eastside Baptist Church	Belzoni	2,032.22	427	Brush Creek Baptist Church	Corinth	1,373.76
278	Myrick Baptist Church	Laurel	2,031.62	428	New Prospect Baptist Church	Iuka	1,370.00
279	Eastside Baptist Church	Pearl	2,028.05	429	Cary Baptist Church	Cary	1,367.77
280	Union Baptist Church	Mize	2,021.30	430	Bethlehem Baptist Church	Benton	1,361.00
281	Wellman Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	2,006.73	431	Moak's Creek Baptist Church	Summit	1,360.00
282	Beulah Baptist Church	Myrtle	2,004.23	432	Berwick Baptist Church	Gloster	1,345.00
283	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Meridian	2,002.98	433	Diamondhead Baptist Church	Diamondhead	1,340.02
284	Macedonia Baptist Church	Brookhaven	2,002.00	434	Mount Nelson Baptist Church	Philadelphia	1,339.45
285	Navilla Baptist Church	McComb	2,000.84	435	Heritage Baptist Church	Lucedale	1,337.68
286	Enterprise Baptist Church	Enterprise	1,999.92	436	Highland Baptist Church	Jackson	1,336.29
287	Tuscumbia Baptist Church	Booneville	1,998.00	437	Hohenlinden Baptist Church	Mantee	1,335.00
288	Arbor Grove Baptist Church	Houston	1,995.00	438	Doty Springs Baptist Church	Mc Cool	1,334.11
289	Hopewell Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	1,995.00	439	Oak Grove Baptist Church	Benton	1,333.00
290	Berea Baptist Church	Mc Cool	1,993.05	440	Providence Baptist Church	Ackerman	1,326.00
291	Southway Baptist Church	Brookhaven	1,986.11	441	Grace Baptist Church	Philadelphia	1,325.00
292	New Providence Baptist Church	Hazlehurst	1,978.00	442	East Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	Quitman	1,324.79
293	Star Baptist Church	Star	1,966.92	443	Calvary Baptist Church	Quitman	1,315.00
294	Union Baptist Church	Sardis	1,963.63	444	Ethel Baptist Church	Ethel	1,310.56
295	Williamsburg Baptist Church	Collins	1,953.69	445	Pinola Baptist Church	Pinola	1,310.00
296	Shuqualak Baptist Church	Shuqualak	1,951.00	446	Mantee Baptist Church	Mantee	1,306.00
297	Tocowa Baptist Church	Batesville	1,950.00	447	Gooden Lake Baptist Church	Belzoni	1,305.00
298	Success Baptist Church	Saucier	1,928.19	448	Sharkey-Issaquena Baptist Association	Rolling Fork	1,300.00
299	Bethel Baptist Church	Etta	1,926.66	449	Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	Woodland	1,300.00
300	Central Baptist Church	McComb	1,925.00	450	First Baptist Church	Steens	1,300.00
301	Calvary Baptist Church	New Augusta	1,904.70	451	Twin Lakes Baptist Church	Madison	1,300.00
302	Calvary Baptist Church	Petal	1,900.65	452	Salem Baptist Church	Potts Camp	1,300.00
303	Mont Rose Baptist Church	Quitman	1,890.00	453	Hebron Baptist Church	Benton	1,295.00
304	Pittsboro Baptist Church	Pittsboro	1,885.97	454	Blythe Creek Baptist Church	Mathiston	1,284.00
305	Arlington Baptist Church	Bogue Chitto	1,881.74	455	First Baptist Church	Horn Lake	1,282.28
306	First Baptist Church	Lumberton	1,863.38	456	First Baptist Church	Grenada	1,279.88
307	Looxahoma Baptist Church	Senatobia	1,850.21	457	Eton Baptist Church	Macon	1,278.00
308	Mount Horeb Baptist Church	Collins	1,848.41	458	County Line Baptist Church	Ovett	1,275.00
309	First Baptist Church	Brooklyn	1,844.73	459	Calvary West Point Baptist Church	West Point	1,275.00
310	New Palestine Baptist Church	Picayune	1,837.00	460	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	Mt Pleasant	1,274.74
311	Scotland Baptist Church	Winona	1,831.64	461	Conway Baptist Church	Carthage	1,273.49
312	Carriage Hills Baptist Church	Southaven	1,829.20	462	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Calhoun City	1,260.00
313	Crystal Springs Baptist Church	Tylertown	1,825.00	463	Horseshoe Baptist Church	Tchula	1,260.00
314	West Heights Baptist Church	Pontotoc	1,824.70	464	New Zion Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	1,254.35
315	Holly Baptist Church	Corinth	1,821.07	465	Mount Carmel Baptist Church	Carthage	1,252.49
316	North Oxford Baptist Church	Oxford	1,818.00	466	Enon Baptist Church	Jayess	1,250.00
317	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Taylorsville	1,815.00	467	Hillcrest Baptist Church	New Albany	1,250.00
318	Glenfield Baptist Church	New Albany	1,800.00	468	Pheba Baptist Church	Pheba	1,249.62
319	Friendship Baptist Church	Sturgis	1,800.00	469	Cedar Grove Baptist Church	Lena	1,245.00
320	Beulah Baptist Church	Myrtle	1,798.00	470	Ellison Ridge Baptist Church	Pontotoc	1,240.00
321	Bethany Baptist Church	Prentiss	1,792.03	471	Oak Dale Baptist Church	Bruce	1,238.00
322	Calvary Baptist Church	Newton	1,787.44	472	Banner Baptist Church	Glen	1,237.00
323	Harmony Baptist Church	Louisville	1,786.37	473	New Liberty Baptist Church	Golden	1,235.00
324	Zion Hill Baptist Church	Blue Springs	1,785.38	474	Salem Baptist Church	Natchez	1,232.41
325	Center Hill Baptist Church	Ecu	1,780.27	475	Morgantown Baptist Church	Ripley	1,230.00
326	Shiloh Baptist Church	Big Creek	1,774.61	476	Peoples Baptist Church	Liberty	1,225.00
327	Fellowship Baptist Church	Enterprise	1,766.10	477	Enterprise Baptist Church	Meridian	1,217.62
328	Sallis Baptist Church	Sallis	1,762.38	478	Highland Baptist Church	Seminary	1,215.00
329	Easthaven Baptist Church	Brookhaven	1,750.00	479	Lowery Creek Baptist Church	Senatobia	1,212.74
330	New Haven Baptist Church	Weir	1,748.73	480	Highland Baptist Church	Southaven	1,200.00
331	Standing Pine Baptist Church	Walnut Grove	1,746.56	481	Broadway Baptist Church	Nettleton	1,200.00
332	Golden Central Baptist Church	Golden	1,745.00	482	Immanuel Baptist Church	Greenwood	1,200.00
333	New Hope Baptist Church	Foxworth	1,740.00	483	Cumberland Baptist Church	Maben	1,200.00
334	First Baptist Church	Vardaman	1,730.00	484	Piney Grove Baptist Church	Randolph	1,200.00
335	Calvary Baptist Church	Holly Springs	1,730.00	485	Grace Memorial Baptist Church	Tupelo	1,200.00
336	County Line Baptist Church	Walnut	1,729.29	486	Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	West	1,200.00
337	Furrs Baptist Church	Pontotoc	1,719.46	487	Mount Zion Baptist Church	Florence	1,200.00
338	Main Street Baptist Church	Goodman	1,714.44	488	Colonial Heights Baptist Church	Ridgeland	1,200.00
339	Oloh First Baptist Church	Sumrall	1,712.60	489	Friendship Baptist Church	Brookhaven	1,200.00
340	Calvary Baptist Church	Corinth	1,712.16	490	First Bellevue Baptist Church	Shelby	1,200.00
341	Centerville Baptist Church	Petal	1,700.00	491	Sunrise Baptist Church	Carthage	1,200.00
342	Oldtown Baptist Church	Pittsboro	1,691.00	492	Corinth Baptist Church	Carthage	1,200.00
343	First Baptist Church	Coffeeville	1,686.00	493	Oak Grove Baptist Church	Mount Olive	1,200.00
344	Clifton Baptist Church	Forest	1,680.07	494	Good Hope Baptist Church	Philadelphia	1,200.00
345	First Baptist Church	Holly Springs	1,670.30	495	First Baptist Church	Greenwood	1,200.00
346	Meadow Grove Baptist Church	Brandon	1,662.00	496	Mount Vernon Baptist Church	Newton	1,200.00
347	Second Baptist Church	Kosciusko	1,660.62	497	Port Gibson Baptist Church	Port Gibson	1,200.00
348	Camp Creek Baptist Church	Guntown	1,651.92	498	Lebanon Baptist Church	Ripley	1,200.00
349	Limestone Baptist Church	Nettleton	1,646.75	499	Bethel Baptist Church	Liberty	1,200.00
350	Bethany Baptist Church	Calhoun City	1,639.00	500	Calvary Baptist Church	Starkville	1,200.00
351	Roundaway Baptist Church	Doddsville	1,635.00	501	New Montpelier Baptist Church	Woodland	1,200.00
352	Gatesville Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	1,624.22	502	Bett Baptist Church	Coldwater	1,198.64
353	First Baptist Church	Waynesboro	1,613.99	503	Holly Springs Baptist Church	Foxworth	1,191.75
354	Georgetown Baptist Church	Georgetown	1,610.00	504	Centerville Baptist Church	Centerville	1,184.00
355	Bond Baptist Church	Philadelphia	1,602.48	505	Ramah Baptist Church	Mc Call Creek	1,182.66
356	First Baptist Church	Taylorsville	1,600.59	506	New Home Baptist Church	Fulton	1,182.58
357	Central Baptist Church	Meridian	1,600.00	507	Progress Baptist Church	McComb	1,180.00
358	Providence Baptist Church	Cleveland	1,600.00	508	County Line Baptist Church	Crystal Springs	1,174.96
359	Harrisburg Baptist Church	Tupelo	1,600.00	509	Little Bahala Baptist Church	Wesson	1,169.30
360	Mount Vernon Baptist Church	Eupora	1,600.00	510	Parkview Baptist Church	Picayune	1,163.48
361	Smithville Baptist Church	Smithville	1,593.14	511	Barton First Baptist Church	Byhalia	1,158.00
362	Clear Springs Baptist Church	Water Valley	1,590.04	512	First Baptist Church	Poplarville	1,155.00
363	Union Baptist Church	Tylertown	1,588.00	513	Galilee Baptist Church	Gloster	1,154.06
364	Mount Olive Baptist Church	Smithdale	1,588.00	514	First Baptist Church	Marion	1,130.76
365	Longview Baptist Church	Belden	1,588.00	515	Siloam Baptist Church	Meadville	1,128.03
366	Mount Olive Baptist Church	Philadelphia	1,582.71	516	First Baptist Church	Ellisville	1,127.00
367	Nicholson Baptist Church	Nicholson	1,578.48	517	First Baptist Church	Durant	1,126.20
368	Corinth Baptist Church	Magee	1,577.00	518	First Baptist Church	Grenada	1,123.38
369	South Crossroads Baptist Church	Iuka	1,575.00	519	First Baptist Church	Summit	1,122.85
370	Cornerstone Baptist Church	Batesville	1,567.83	520	Montgomery Baptist Church	Houston	1,119.11
371	Ecu Baptist Church	Ecu	1,563.09	521	First Baptist Church	Amory	1,117.50
372	Ellistown Baptist Church	Blue Springs	1,560.00	522	Meadowood Baptist Church	Bassfield	1,117.11
373	First Baptist Church	State Line	1,549.84	523	Bassfield Baptist Church	Morton	1,115.00
374	Oak Grove Baptist Church	Shubuta	1,547.00	524	New Liberty Baptist Church	Pelahatchie	1,108.04
375	Providence Baptist Church	Grenada	1,541.81	525	Pelahatchie Baptist Church	Magee	1,100.86
376	Bogue Chitto Baptist Church	Tylertown	1,536.70	526	Kennedy Springs Baptist Church	Booneville	1,100.00
377	Hickory Grove Baptist Church	Coldwater	1,535.00	527	Oak Hill Baptist Church	West	1,100.00
378	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church	Houlka	1,534.96	528	Sand Hill Baptist Church	Roxie	1,100.00
379	First Baptist Church	Magee	1,530.00	529	Roxie Baptist Church	Richton	1,100.00
380	Union West Baptist Church	Oxford	1,522.31	530	West Salem Baptist Church	Vossburg	1,100.00
381	Macedonia Baptist Church	Byhalia	1,520.21	531	Hepzibah Baptist Church	Magnolia	1,100.00
382	Union Baptist Church	Roxie	1,518.74	532	Glading Baptist Church	Vaughan	1,095.00
383	Antioch Baptist Church	Golden	1,515.00	533	Black Jack Baptist Church	Hickory Flat	1,094.03
384	Pineview Baptist Church	Clinton	1,512.60	534	Pine Grove Baptist Church	Blue Springs	1,093.34
385	Chaparral Baptist Church	Waynesboro	1,511.58	535	Center Baptist Church	Mendenhall	1,091.55
386	Parkway Baptist Church	Hernando	1,508.00	536	Stonewall Baptist Church	Bassfield	1,082.76
387	Heuck's Retreat Baptist Church	Brookhaven	1,505.31	537	Ebenezer Baptist Church	Perkinston	1,081.54
388	First Baptist Church	Itta Bena	1,504.28	538	Tuxehena Baptist Church	Picayune	1,079.30
389	First Baptist Church	Belmont	1,501.20	539	Flat Top Unity Baptist Church	Jackson	1,075.00
390	Trinity Baptist Church	Fulton	1,500.00	540	Griffith Memorial Baptist Church	Olive Branch	1,071.39
391	West McComb Baptist Church	McComb	1,500.00	541	Pleasant Hill Baptist Church	Louin	1,064.35
392	Auburn Baptist Church	Tupelo	1,500.00	542	Clear Springs Baptist Church	Vardaman	1,059.31
393	Beacon Street Baptist Church	Philadelphia	1,500.00	543	Poplar Springs Baptist Church	Louin	1,057.25
394	Good Hope Baptist Church	Louisville	1,499.71	544	Montrose Baptist Church	Mendenhall	1,050.87
395	Center Terrace Baptist Church	Canton	1,499.00	545	Cato Baptist Church	Louisville	1,050.00
396	Melrose Baptist Church	Benton	1,487.41	546	Gum Branch Baptist Church	Vicksburg	1,046.11
397	New Bethel Baptist Church	Philadelphia	1,486.56	547	Trinity Baptist Church	Tillatoba	1,038.01
398	Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church	Dumas	1,478.00	548	Pearl Hill Baptist Church	Carthage	1,033.69
399	Maranatha Baptist Church	Mount Olive	1,477.26	549	Goodyear Baptist Church	Picayune	1,031.47
400	First Baptist Church	Sartania	1,476.00	550	East Louisville Baptist Church	Morton	1,030.00
401	Lakeland Baptist Church	Mentachie	1,475.34	551	Polkville Baptist Church	Tishomingo	1,020.00
402	Interstate Baptist Church	Shaw	1,471.00	552	Tishomingo Baptist Church	Vardaman	1,019.00
403	North Columbia Baptist Church	Columbia	1,465.00	553	New Providence Baptist Church	Sardis	1,009.00
404	Grace Memorial Baptist Church	Gulfport	1,448.64	554	Hebron Baptist Church	Ellisville	1,002.00
405	Gum Grove Baptist Church	Brookhaven	1,438.85	555	Lone Star Baptist Church	Water Valley	1,001.00
406	Skene Baptist Church	Skene	1,428.98	556	Woodland Hills Baptist Church	Nettleton	1,000.00
407	Northside Baptist Church	Lucedale	1,427.46	557	Jones Chapel Baptist Church	New Augusta	1,000.00
408	Fellowship Baptist Church	Ellisville	1,425.00	558	Perry Baptist Association	Union	1,000.00
409	First Baptist Church	Lambert	1,425.00	559	Good Hope Baptist Church	Nettleton	1,000.00
410	Hinkle Baptist Church	Rienzi	1,423.10	560	Rock Branch Baptist Church	Toomsaba	1,000.00
411	Macedonia Baptist Church	Mendenhall	1,422.02	561	Evergreen Baptist Church	Gulfport	1,000.00
412	Buck Creek Baptist Church	Richton	1,422.00	562	Liberty Baptist Church	Stringer	1,000.00
413	DeKalb Baptist Church	De Kalb	1,420.00	563	Gulfport Heights Baptist Church	Lucedale	1,000.00
414	Mount Manna Baptist Church	Coldwater	1,419.00	564	Stringer Baptist Church	Oakland	1,000.00
415	Macedonia Baptist Church	Myrtle	1,404.50	565	Shady Grove Baptist Church		
416	Greenland Baptist Church	Union	1,400.00	566	Spring Hill Baptist Church		
417	Leaf Baptist Church	McLain	1,400.00	567			
418	Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church	Eupora	1,400.00				



# Mississippian taking on Nevada culture for Christ

RENO, Nev. — North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionary Melanie Lawler is a real, talking, walking-around miracle.

To follow the William Carey University graduate around northwest Nevada, where she serves the Sierra Baptist Association as a ministry evangelism specialist in Reno, no one would guess she first suffered seizures as a fourth grader in Leland that were initially diagnosed as epilepsy.

Melanie's seizures followed her family's move to Carthage, where, during the 11th grade, doctors discovered a brain tumor. The tumor was removed, but then 17-year-old Melanie suffered a stroke.

Following the stroke, "they (doctors) said I would be a vegetable," Melanie recalled — but the doctors forgot to consult God, who had other plans.

Melanie remembers that as a teenager her pastor at First Church, Carthage, Russ Barksdale, challenged her to memorize Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you... plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." (HCSB)

"I memorized that verse and shortly after, God began speaking to my heart saying, 'Melanie, I have plans for you,' and I would say, 'Oh yes God, I know. I'm going to be a pediatric neurologist. I'm going to be a good doctor for you Lord.' God would say, 'No Melanie. I have plans for you.'"

"God brought me through the brain tumor and the stroke and today, I'm OK. I realized that if God could protect me in the midst of great problems, then I could trust Him to dictate the direction of my life."

Lawler is one of more than 5,000 missionaries in the United States, Canada, and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) for



**MAKING PLANS** — Mississippian Melanie Lawler (right), ministry evangelism specialist for the North American Mission Board and the Sierra Baptist Association in northwest Nevada, discusses English as Second Language ministry with pastor Seunghwan Choi (center) and associate pastor Jeff Jung, at All Peoples Baptist Church (Korean) in Reno, Nev. The trio want to teach English to Koreans working in the local hotel industry. (NAMB photo by Russell Shively)

North American Missions. She is among the North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionaries featured as part of the annual Week of Prayer, March 2-9.

This year's theme is, "Live with Urgency: Seize Your Divine Moment." The 2008 AAEO goal is \$61 million, 100% of which is used for missionaries like Melanie.

Lawler's current assignment in Reno is actually her second stint in Nevada. She served as a US/C2 missionary in Las Vegas back in the late '90s, after graduating from college and before receiving her master's degree from New Orleans Seminary.

"After my time in Las Vegas ended in 1998, I told God I would never live in Nevada again," said Lawler. "It was too hot, too dry, too brown, and too ugly. Following seminary, I was seeking where God would use me in ministry next. I got a call to come back to Nevada, and my immediate response was 'No! It's too hot, too dry, too brown, and too ugly.'"

God had His plan and Melanie returned to Nevada in fall 2001. "Reno continues to grow on me and I'm even beginning to find beauty in the desert," she said, "but I still go to Lake Tahoe at least once a month to get my tree fix. Now I can't imagine living anywhere else."

Think of Reno and one usually conjures up bright lights, casinos, gambling, and other assorted sins and vices. Melanie, now 34, is ready to take them on.

"My goal is to see our churches reach all our communities for Christ," she said, "so that includes the people working at the casinos and the tourists visiting the casinos. We don't have casino ministries in Reno at this point, but it's a dream I hope to carry out in the future."

"The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is vital to our ministry here," Lawler said. "We would not be able to be here at all if it weren't for the Annie Armstrong offering. It allows me to be able to do my work without having to worry about how my bills are going to be paid. I know the money is there for me through our Southern Baptist churches."

## Missionaries determined to succeed in tough ministry area

DES MOINES, Iowa — Iowa conjures up images of a Midwestern state of green cornfields, big-time pig and dairy farming, small towns, and the fictional setting for movies like *The Music Man* and *Field of Dreams*.

The Hawkeye State certainly is all those positive things and more, but Des Moines — Iowa's state capital and largest city with 500,000 people — also is plagued with the same neighborhood gangs, crime, violence, drugs, and poverty of other American cities.

Just ask Jon and Mindy Jamison. For almost nine years, Jon and Mindy, both 33, have been a husband-wife team of North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionaries, working as co-directors of Friendship Baptist Center in inner-city Des Moines. They are also state church and community ministries directors for the Baptist Convention of Iowa.

The Jamisons are two of more than 5,000 missionaries in the United States, Canada, and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) for North American Missions, and are one of eight NAMB missionary couples highlighted as part of the annual Week of Prayer, March 2-9.

This year's theme is "Live with Urgency: Seize Your Divine Moment." The 2008 AAEO goal is \$61 million, 100% of which is used for missionaries like the Jamisons.

The Friendship Baptist Center, a non-descript building, sits on the corner of Meek Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway in Des Moines.

"The neighborhood surrounding the Friendship Baptist Center is a poverty-impacted community," according to Jon. "Upward of 30-35% of the households are in poverty. Many of the people are victims of crime. There's a lot of violence, gang activity, and drugs in the communities surrounding the center, so we have a challenge just outside our doors."

"Many people struggle with having something to eat, having clothes to wear, shelter, heat in the winter. For kids in the area, there's no one at home to take care of them. Kids must find a way to wake themselves up in the morning. If there's food in the house, they have to make their own breakfast. They have to find a way to school, if they go. Many kids are sort of their own parents. That may sound like fun, but it also brings some struggles for the kids," Jon said.

Mindy Jamison echoes her husband, "The kids get up and don't take a bath because there's no water. They don't have a toothbrush or shampoo. They probably forget to take their books to school. They walk to school in the cold, and it gets very cold in Des Moines. They

go hungry and without basic needs, much less encouragement and nourishment."

"I think if that doesn't break our heart, if that doesn't concern us, then our heart isn't lined up with the heart of Christ. He was so concerned for the least of these."

Mindy, who grew up doing urban missions work in her native Fort Myers, Fl., calls the neighborhood around the Friendship Center "great" and "horrible" at the same time. The center serves primarily African-Americans, Hispanics, and refugee families from Zaire, Sudan, and Bosnia.

The Friendship Center is multi-faceted. Kids Club is an after-school program in which children come in and get help with their homework, play board games, or sports. They also learn about life skills, nutrition, and even how to cook.

Of course, the Jamisons teach them about the Bible. "Once we get to know the kids better, we offer a Bible study and teach them what God says about their lives and how God wants to be a part of their lives," said Jon. "Many times, we tell them Bible stories, and it's the first time they've ever heard Bible stories. It's great to see the lights come on when they realize that God loves them and can provide for them."

Telling the center's kids Bible stories is different from teaching children who've grown up in a Southern Baptist church, who can finish the story just by giving them the story's character or topic.

"Many kids here are waiting on the edge of their seats to find out how the Bible story ends," Mindy said, "because they haven't heard it before."

Mindy credits the center's 15 Kid's Club volunteers, who come and "pour their lives into these kids every day." In all, some 250 volunteers support Jon and Mindy with their myriad of ministries on an annual basis.

"The kids get to meet volunteers from all over who may be Iowa State students, people from local churches, and others," Mindy said. "The kids get to rub shoulders with them and be mentored by them. Our kids get help with their homework, hear the Gospel, and get a snack. It's so important... to get them here, off the streets and into a positive place." Another huge project for the center is teaching English as a Second Language (ESL), conversational English and the ability to read.



**TACKLING PROBLEMS** — For nine years, Jon and Mindy Jamison have served the North American Mission Board and the Baptist Convention of Iowa as a husband-wife missionary team in Des Moines, Iowa, where the minister among urban social problems that mirror other large American cities. (NAMB photo by Norm Appleton Photography)

"It's a great way for us to connect to the community," said Jon. "Immigrants and refugees come to Des Moines and need to provide for their families. They need a job, and often they can find better jobs if they speak English. They may not have a hunger need or a clothing need, but it's easy for them to know that they have a need to speak English."

"The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is such a blessing to us," Mindy said. "We're so thankful that we don't have to stop our work and go and raise funds somewhere. Because of financial cooperation among Southern Baptists, we can focus on the ministry without worrying about where funds will come from or where our next paycheck will come from, or how to find money to feed hungry people."

"Through the Annie Armstrong offering, we are able to offer the love of Christ to people out of a ministry center without closing the doors every couple of months to seek additional funding. Annie Armstrong provides consistent, reliable ministry for those in need all year-round."